



37TH DISTRICT  
910 FARNUM BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 30036  
LANSING, MI 48909-7536  
PHONE: (517) 373-2413  
TOLL-FREE: (866) 525-5637  
FAX: (517) 373-5144

E-MAIL: [senhwalker@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senhwalker@senate.michigan.gov)

**HOWARD WALKER**  
**STATE SENATOR**

**STANDING COMMITTEE:**  
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY

**APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES:**

K-12, SCHOOL AID AND  
EDUCATION, CHAIR

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL  
RESOURCES, VICE CHAIR

HIGHER EDUCATION, VICE CHAIR

August 25, 2011

Jeff Gray, Manager  
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
145 Water St.  
Alpena, MI 49707

Dear Mr. Gray,


It is my great pleasure to support Senator Carl Levin's proposal to expand the water area protected by the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The expansion of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary would protect an additional 38 shipwrecks and an additional 3637 square miles of water area for the enjoyment of posterity. The continued conservation of Northeast Michigan's aquatic natural resources will be of enduring importance as the region seeks to nurture and develop a robust tourist economy.

The successful implementation of the proposal will ensure the ongoing protection of the physical remnants of Lake Huron's storied maritime history. Moreover, the project will spur significant private and public investment in redeveloping Northeast Michigan's coastline to provide a gratifying and accessible experience to the area's numerous seasonal visitors.

Thank you for your rigorous evaluation and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Howard Walker  
State Senator  
37th District